

the author considering that Bentham and Hooker had suppressed it from a mistaken idea as to the constancy of its characters, and *Raoulia* is retained solely for convenience.

Altogether about 950 species are enumerated, of which 262, or nearly two sevenths of the total number, are introduced plants, which are especially numerous in Leguminosæ, including 7 species of *Medicago*, 13 of *Trifolium*, and 6 of *Vicia*; 49 plants are described as new, and a dozen are transferred to different genera.

The volume embraces the first half of the whole phanerogamic flora, from Ranunculaceæ to Compositæ inclusive, with a glossary of terms, a synopsis of the work, and two indexes. Apart from the shape, which is a little awkward for use, we can only express our pleasure at so much of the New Zealand flora being issued and brought down to the present time, the admirable handbook of Sir Joseph Hooker having long since been out of print.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

#### *Scriptotricha* or *Paracantha*?

SEVERAL years ago, when resident in Colorado, the writer found a Trypetid fly breeding in the heads of thistles. A specimen was sent to the Department of Agriculture at Washington, and was identified as *Scriptotricha culta*, under which name I published an account of it in the 'Sixth Report of the Colorado Biological Association,' Jan. 16, 1889. The fly and its habits were there described in a manner sufficient for recognition. In *Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc.* xx. p. 369 (1893), the insect was again referred to as *Scriptotricha culta* (Wied.).

In *Journ. N. Y. Ent. Soc.*, Dec. 1899, Mr. D. W. Coquillett proposes the name *Paracantha*, with the *Carphotricha culta* (Wied.) as the type.

On looking into the matter I found no mention of *Scriptotricha* in the literature, except in the places just cited, and concluded that it must have been a MS. name. Mr. Coquillett, at my request, has been so kind as to investigate its history, and he finds that the fly I sent in was identified by the late Mr. Linell as *Carphotricha culta*, but Mr. Pergande misread the name as *Scriptotricha culta*, and in the latter form it was sent to me.

Now the question is, will *Scriptotricha* hold, and if so, who is its author? It was published in connexion with a description, and would be valid but for the fact that it originated in a mistake. I am inclined to consider, on the whole, that it will rank with misprints, and the name *Paracantha* will apply to the fly\*.

In any case, this explanation seems necessary, to avoid future misunderstandings.

T. D. A. COCKERELL.

Mesilla Park, New Mexico, U.S.A.,

Jan. 27, 1900.

\* [I entirely agree with Professor Cockerell, and am glad that he has put the matter on record.—C. DAVIES SHERBORN.]